

**GEORGIA TRAVELER 206**  
**CAPTION SCRIPT**

**Music**

**Keely VO:**

On this episode of Georgia Traveler, we're driving Scenic Mountain Highways in search of family fun, a place to eat, a place to sleep, an outdoor activity, and a local legend. That's next on Georgia Traveler.

**Music**

On the road most every day, looking for a place where you can play, looking for the best place you can stay. From the mountains to the coast, looking for a trip you'll like the most, we may even find a friendly ghost, we're Georgia Traveler. Well, we're from Georgia and we travel, that's why we call it Georgia Traveler, and nothing rhymes with Georgia Traveler, but still we're called the Georgia Traveler.

**Music**

**Woman VO:**

Georgia Traveler is made possible in part by...

**Music**

**Man VO:**

Few places on earth match Georgia for natural beauty, and we plan to keep it that way. We're Georgia Power, a proud sponsor of public broadcasting. We're on, so you can be. Georgia Power, a Southern Company.

**Music**

**Woman VO:**

And by supporters of Georgia Public Broadcasting. Thank you.

**Music**

**David:**

Hello and welcome to Georgia Traveler. I'm David Zelski, and this week, Phil, Keely, and I travel the Richard B. Russell Scenic Highway in northeast Georgia. This week we begin our great getaway at Smithgall Woods, 6,000 acres of land, located in the mountains above Helen, Georgia.

**John Erbele:**

We have become the second largest state park in Georgia. We do children's education. We do fishing, hunting, and then of course the overnight facility, where we have 14 bedrooms. All you hear is running water, streams; we don't

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allow driving to the interior of the park. So you really have the ability to escape and just get away from it all for a while.

**Patricia Allgood:**

Smithgall Woods is a magical place. You're only an hour and a half away from Atlanta. So I think people come up here and they spend a night or two and they feel like they've been very refreshed.

**John Erbele:**

We tease our overnight guests that they have about 400 acres per bedroom; stretch out and enjoy the place. It's kind of the best kept secret in Georgia.

**David:**

When walking around the 6,000 acres of land here at Smithgall Woods, you never know what you're gonna run into. Ah, a bear!

**John Eberle:**

Well, you may encounter almost anything: wild turkey, a bear. I tell folks we have non-venomous snakes and we have other snakes.

**David VO:**

Charles Smithgall donated Smithgall Woods to the state of Georgia in 1994, under the promise that the state would continue to preserve and protect this land. That promise has been honored and conservation programs like the Master Naturalist class just one of many examples.

**Scott Bardenwerper:**

Mr. Charles Smithgall was a businessman and a conservationist and he started buying this property and putting it together in the early 1980s.

**David VO:**

Now this particular master naturalist program I attended was one of 10. So when the activities actually began, I have to admit, I was extremely lost and just tried to avoid getting called on by the teacher. So as soon as class was over, I used my new master naturalist skills to go fishing in Duke's Creek, listed as one of the top 100 fly fishing spots in the country.

**David:**

Well John I took that master naturalist program and I've been fishing here an hour and haven't caught anything.

**John:**

Well that's why they call it fishing, not catching.

**David VO:**

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The humiliation ended soon enough when my line was struck with the force of 10 Moby Dicks.

**David:**

Gotcha! It's a...shark! Well this is catch and release, right? Alright little guy, or big fish, about a foot and a half;18 inches. We'll give him that. And it's time for him to grow and I'll catch him next year.

**David VO:**

Well, Duke's Creek's fishing reputation soon lived up to the hype. Just minutes later I landed a beautiful rainbow trout.

**John Erbele:**

Mr. Smithgall himself had on his office wall a quote. "In the end our society will not be judged by what we create, but what we refuse to destroy." And his instructions were to just take good care of it.

**Phil VO:**

From David's relaxing getaway to one of the nation's most famous outdoor activities, Keely's on the AT.

**Music**

**Keely VO:**

The Appalachian Trail is a 2175 mile hiking trail that runs from Springer Mountain, Georgia to Katahdin, Maine. It takes almost five million footsteps to walk the length of the trail. Well, I don't have that kind of time! So I'm going to stop off at Mountain Crossings on U.S. 19 and seek some advice.

**Music**

**Keely:**

Hey, I'm Keely.

**Winton Porter:**

Hey Keely.

**Keely:**

Hey, how are you?

**Winton Porter:**

Good

**Keely:**

I was wondering what kind of day hikes are good around here?

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**Winton Porter:**

You can probably go up the Blood Mountain which is pretty popular. We are right here at Neal's Gap, alright. This trail goes up to 2.2 miles to the top, about three hours and 15 minutes to the top. Or you can take the loop around which is about four hours and 30 minutes to the top. But it's rated moderate to strenuous; it's a nice climb up there, but you got 360 degree views from the top.

**Keely:** Wow, that sounds perfect. Excellent! Great, well thanks! Let's head out!

**Winton Porter:**

Alright.

**Music**

**Keely VO:**

Mountain Crossings is housed in historic Walasi-Yi Interpretative Center. It is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

**Winton Porter:**

The Mountain Crossing as Walasi-Yi has been here since 1937, built by the CCC corps. From 1937 to about 1965 it ran as a restaurant and an inn. From 1965 to the '70s they nearly tore it down. Placed on the historical register in 1979. In 1983 it became kind of what you see it today, which is a hiking store that serves the hikers and the gift shop for the tourists that come through the North Georgia Mountains. The significance of it, it's the only place where a trail actually runs through a man-made structure in the entire 2,175 miles. So there's over 350,000 hikers have gone through that breezeway since the store opened.

**Keely VO:**

The Hike up Blood Mountain might be a day hike, but Blood Mountain is the highest mountain on the Appalachian Trail in Georgia.

**Music**

**Keely:**

And this is a trail intersection?

**Winton Porter:**

Yeah, we're actually at the base. We're a little bit less than a mile into the trail, and then we're gonna go about 300 yards up this way as we really start to climb up the top of Blood Mountain.

**Keely:**

So we haven't been climbing yet?

**Winton Porter:**

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Nope.

**Keely:**

That'll really be climbing?

**Winton Porter:**

Yep, yep. This is just been a leisure walk up the hill.

**Keely:**

Okay, cool!

**Winton Porter:**

Alright.

**Keely:** Let's go! This way?

**Winton Porter:**

Yep.

**Music**

**Keely VO:**

This section of the Appalachian Trail is perhaps the most hiked section in Georgia. Today we see many hikers, but it's even busier on the weekends.

**Winton Porter:**

Carry some water, some bug repellent, and a little fanny pack that you can house a couple of sandwiches and some food in. The chances of you are getting stuck out there over night are possible, but not probable. Just be safe and use common sense, but most importantly is have a good time out there, and a good pair of shoes certainly does help. Coming in with a set of high heels, you are not gonna have fun.

**Keely:**

This is a nice view!

**Winton Porter:**

Yeah, this is looking down on Desoto Falls, still a part of the Chattahoochee National Forest. We're about maybe a mile and a half up Blood Mountain; we got about a half a mile to go.

**Keely:**

Okay, great. And so we go this way, down this trail?

**Winton Porter:**

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No, we actually have to go this way, follow the white blaze, which you'll see on the rocks and also marked on trees. Make this your best friend all the way to the top and all the way back, wherever you see the white blaze you're on the Appalachian Trail; if it's a blue blaze, you're off the trail!

**Keely:** Okay! So that's good to know!

**Music**

**Keely VO:**

There is a shelter built by the Civilian Conservation Corps at the summit of the mountain. It is also on the National Register of Historic Places. The peak of Blood Mountain has wonderful scenic views from the large rock formations. It's also a great place for a snack and a drink—the energy you'll need to get back down.

**David VO:**

While Keely continues enjoying the outdoors, our tallest talent visits a very tall local legend.

**Phil:**

Just off State Road 75 near Hiawassee is the tallest point in Georgia. Pop quiz, what is it? I'll give you two seconds. Too late. It's Brasstown Bald. At 4784 feet it is the highest point in Georgia from sea level, and today I'm gonnato walk up the mountain, just because, well, I had a big breakfast, and I just need to burn off some calories.

**Music**

**Phil VO:**

Just in case you're wondering, you don't have to walk to the top. There's also a shuttle service that can take you to that mountain-top experience. Now, having never visited Brasstown Bald before, I was unaware of the beautiful vista at the top, but I met a nice couple on their way down and asked them...

**Phil:**

What was the view like at the top?

**Man:**

Oh, incredible. Initially there was a lot of clouds; a lot of cloud cover. And then the clouds burned off and it was just glorious. Really lovely.

**Woman:**

It was beautiful.

**Man:**

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Yeah, you're in the clouds...

**Phil:**

How was the walk back down?

**Man:**

Easier than going up, I'm sure!

**Phil:**

I didn't know that this was gonna be such a steep climb? What's up, buddy?  
You tired too?

**Jimmy:**

I'm wore out!

**Phil:**

Okay. This is Jimmy Hudson, and Jimmy's from Florida. Jimmy, have you ever attempted anything like this before?

**Jimmy:**

No, I've never tried anything like this.

**Phil:**

Why did you do it today?

**Jimmy:**

Kids talked me into it.

**Phil:**

So, what's your expectation? Why did you come out to Brasstown Bald today?

**Jimmy:**

They say we can see four states from up there, so...

**Phil:**

Okay, what states?

**Jimmy:**

Uh, Georgia . . . .

**Phil:**

South Carolina...

**Jimmy:**

South Carolina, North Carolina, and I guess Tennessee.

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**Phil:**

Sounds like a winner. Okay, Jimmy, we've been sitting here long enough. Come on, we gotta get to the top.

**Jimmy:**

Alright, I'm right with you.

**Phil:**

Alright, man, come on. Alright, Jimmy, I tell you what we do, man, first one of us falls, the other one picks the other one up.

**Jimmy:**

Alright!

**Phil:**

Okay, looks like we reached our destination. That is the ranger tower on top of Brasstown Bald, and here's what I was telling you earlier. It is the highest point in Georgia, 4,784 feet. Now, the reason I'm blowing so hard, I'm actually tired. All this sweat, this was real. We're gonna go up here, go into the tower, see what there is to see; maybe I'll get a drink of water.

**Phil VO:**

After some refreshment, I wanted to learn more about Brasstown Bald.

**Kevin Roper:**

Once you get to the top, the observation deck, what we're on now, you can see four states, which includes the Chattahoochee National Forest including Georgia. We've got Tennessee off to the northwest, and North Carolina and South Carolina that's behind us here.

**Phil:**

What's in the exhibit hall?

**Kevin Roper:**

The exhibit hall has a lot of history. We have a lot of wildlife people look at. Basically they can also get brochures; information about the Chattahoochee National Forest, itself.

**Phil:**

So, Kevin, I got a telescope here, and which way is Young Harris?

**Kevin Roper:**

Young Harris is back over in this direction.

**Phil:**

So everything back over there?

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**Kevin Roper:**

Yes.

**Phil:**

Okay, 'cause I understand Keely is somewhere down in Young Harris, and if I'm not mistaken, she is...oh my goodness! Keely!

**Music**

**Keely VO:**

For some down home country cooking folks around Young Harris visit Mary Ann's Country Kitchen. Fried Chicken, Okra, Chicken and Dumplings, rice, gravy...whew, the list goes on! I stopped by to see if I could bring home any tips from Mary Ann, herself.

**Keely:**

So Mary Ann you're gonna show me how to make peach cobbler, right? We're gonna add it to your buffet today.

**Mary Ann:**

Okay.

**Keely:**

Okay, so what's the first step?

**Mary Ann:**

The first thing you do is open your can of peaches. Get it to boiling. Okay. And then after it gets to boiling I use my corn starch.

**Keely:**

And what's that gonna do?

**Mary Ann:**

It'll make it thicken. That gets it to thicken. But now you don't want to use hot water. Warm water's good or even cold, because it'll set up on you.

**Keely:**

Okay.

**Keely:**

I'll poor for you.

**Mary Ann:**

Okay, that'll be enough right there.

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**Mary Ann:**

And then all you do is pour it in your pan. Just don't get burned! And then I just add a little sugar to the top. This is where it gets its flavor.

**Keely:**

It's going to get a little crunchy, too?

**Mary Ann:**

Mmm-hmm.

**Music**

**Mary Ann:**

And, well I didn't show you how to do the dough. But I can tell you it's just biscuit dough.

**Keely:**

Okay.

**Mary Ann:**

That's all it is.

**Keely:**

Just biscuit dough.

**Mary Ann:**

And it's made out of milk. And then I just roll it out. Now the trick is, well now everybody does it different. I like mine thin because it makes the crust crispier. It makes it not like a biscuit.

**Keely:**

Right. Now is it like a flakey crust, like a flakey biscuit crust?

**Mary Ann:**

Yeah. I know it's awful thin, but after you cook it, it grows.

**Keely:**

Okay.

**Music**

**Keely:**

Let's us get some food after all that cooking.

**Mary Ann:**

Now let me let you go first. I'll let you try, I'll tell you what...

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**Keely:**

Tell me what we've got...

**Mary Ann:**

Okay, fried chicken.

**Keely:**

Okay.

**Mary Ann:**

Chicken and dumplings.

**Keely:**

Okay.

**Mary Ann:**

And pork chops. Now I like...

**Keely:**

Now, I can't try it all!

**Music**

**Keely:**

Well, that was a big lunch, but I gotta try this peach cobbler.

**Mary Ann:**

Oh good. Oh I hope you'll see...

**Keely:**

Well, you like it better if you cook it yourself, right?

**Mary Ann:**

Yeah, that makes it taste better! How is it?

**Keely:**

That's good. That's sweet and yummy.

**Mary Ann:**

We should have put us a big old wad of ice cream.

**Keely:**

Oh, well we'll have to go back up there.

**Mary Ann:**

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You can tell how I got my girlish figure!

**Phil VO:**

Mmmmmm. That looks like some tasty cobbler! From our Food Find in Young Harris, let's head east on U.S. 76 over to the Georgia Mountain Fairgrounds. We're sure to find family fun there!

**David:**

We're here at the Georgia Mountain Fair in Hiawassee, Georgia!

**Keely:**

It's our last stop on U.S. 76 and we're ready to have a blast!

**Phil:**

You might be ready to have a blast; brother getting' ready to eat!

**Hilda Thomason:**

The Georgia Mountain Fair is a non-profit organization, and it's a project of the Towns County Lions Club. And our whole purpose for being in business is to promote tourism here in the Northeast Georgia Mountains. We have a large carnival here at the fair grounds for the children to ride all different kind of rides and games for them to play, and of course we have the petting zoo, we have arts and crafts for the adults to enjoy. We have 65 arts and crafts booths here. We have such a beautiful setting here on sparkling Lake Chatuge. It's a great place to get away to come and enjoy the mountains and relax for a weekend and bring your kids out and let them see what a real country fair is all about.

**Keely VO:**

While Phil seeks out some fair food, David and I start our exploration in the Pioneer Village.

**David VO:**

Our first stop: a wood splitting demonstration.

**Chop**

**David VO:**

Soon after our splitting experience, I had a royal encounter.

**Leah Cunningham:**

I hand people brochures and maps and if they need to know where to go, I help them out with that. I get to try out all the demonstrations for people.

**David:**

Now I don't know if you saw this, but I was over there splitting some wood. Have you ever tried doing that?

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**Leah:**

I have. That was actually one of my first duties as Queen. That's tough.

**David:**

Alright. They said someone was better than me at it. It must be you.

**Leah:**

Maybe. We'll see.

**Chop**

**David:**

I worked out a couple weeks ago...

**Hilda Thomason:**

This is a live, working pioneer village with old-timey mountain demonstrations. It's an education for the children and for the adults as well. It teaches people how we actually lived back in the early 1800s and how they actually survived. We have the board splitting and the quilting and the moonshine still. The blacksmith shop; we have that in operation, and this teaches people how we actually lived many years ago. It's a very non-commercial fair, and it's the best fair in the state of Georgia.

**Keely:**

I want something sweet. Here's raspberry.

**David:**

Tres bon!

**Keely:**

Mmm, that's good!

**Keely VO:**

Speaking of tasting, where's Phil?

**Phil:**

Here at the Georgia Mountain Fairgrounds, there's a lot to do and a lot to see, but you know what, I'm always looking for fantastic food. Oh, funnel cakes! Turkey legs! Funnel cakes; turkey legs!

**Jerry:**

Get your funnel cakes and turkey legs!

**Phil:**

Funnel cakes and turkey legs. Funnel cakes...Jerry, which one?

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**Jerry:**

You've got to have both, you're at the fair. You can't find these but at the fair!

**Phil:**

Okay. Alright, I'll take them both. Which one do I try? Alright, I'm gonna try the funnel cake first. Oh yeah! That's good. Try the turkey now. Jerry, that's a good funnel cake! Do you recommend that people mix the funnel cake along with their turkey?

**Jerry:**

I'd say one or the other at a given time.

**Phil:**

Oh, that is fantastic. You know, if you come out here to the fair, make you sure try on of these turkey legs. Jerry, this is fantastic. Let me get a little piece of that funnel cake too.

**Jerry:**

How's the combination?

**Phil:**

Oh, the combination's great! Fantastic! I can't believe it!

**Music**

**Phil:**

One of the cool things about the Georgia Mountain Fair is that you're always going to find a lot of different food, and I see, we got some kettle corn over here. Betty Adams, I tell you what, I don't know if I can eat all of that, but, I'd like to sample some because I know that just came out of the pot. Now I'm not really a person that really likes kettle corn or popcorn, but, I'm liable to do anything, especially when it comes to food. Betty, that's pretty good. I like that a lot! So Betty, tell me something. How long have you guys been doing this at the Georgia Mountain Fair?

**Betty Adams:**

We've been here for 28 years. We do the pork skins and the kettle corn, and I was a young lady when I started on this mountain; now I'm growing old!

**Phil:**

You know, I just got through with all that kettle corn and you know, you get a little parched, you know, so I'm a little thirsty, so, I came over here, I saw fresh squeezed lemonade. Brooke, Becky, I understand you guys do fresh squeezed lemonade.

**Music**

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**Phil:**

That's good. Apple dumplings and such... seems like my kind of place.

**Phil:**

Come 'ere! Oh Judy, that's good, that's real good!

**Judy:**

Is that gonna calm your sweet tooth?

**Phil:**

I think my...wait a minute, I don't know. It just woke up again!

**Phil VO:**

But it's not all sweets and treats here, when you're at the Fair, you've got to try the smoked trout.

**Phil:**

That's good, Jack, that's good.

**Jack:**

Just have another bite.

**Phil:**

Yeah, 'cause I don't think really got it.

**Jack:**

So, what do you think of that?

**Phil:**

You know, Jack, I think this is pretty good. Now, you know when you come up to the Georgia Mountain Fair, you definitely gotta try some of the rainbow trout, now, Jack is definitely not gonna feed you like he's doing me, but you definitely gotta try it out, the ham all the vegetables. Jack, can I get another piece?

**Phil:**

This is good; y'all really should try some of this! It's so good it's got me being silly!

**Keely:**

For a little hands-on fun with animals, try the petting zoo with animals supplied the Little Ponderosa Zoo.

**Music**

**David:**

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Alright, guys, we're gonna plan this out. We need some kind of order here; smallest ones first. There we go.

**Keely laughs**

**David:**

Aw, come on!

**Keely:**

Hey, chickie, chickie. Hi!

**Baby chick squeaks**

**David:**

So, Keely, do you by any chance have to have a quilt for my pig?

**Keely:**

I do happen to have a quilt for your pig!

**David:**

Alright, fantastic!

**Phil:**

Looks like I'm not the only one getting silly. I think it's time to head to the carnival part of the fair. I hear it's a barrel of fun!

**Keely:**

I'm about to pee my pants!

**David:**

Bring it on, Phil! Come on, no!

**Woman:**

Hey, you cheated! He cheated!

**David:**

I'm not really scared...

**Scary sounds**

**Keely screams**

**Keely:**

Oh, that gave me the shivers!

**David:**

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Scary.

**Phil:**

So, I'm gonna leave the rides to Keely and David. I think I'm gonna come over here and play some games. "Break a bottle; break two to win." You know what, I think I'm going to try that. I gave up baseball in the Eighth Grade, but I think I've got some skills.

**Phil:**

My arm; just a little tight! Oh, come on. One more, one more! I feel it, I feel it! Money shot! Money, baby! Oh! I think it's rigged!

**Keely:**

Are you nervous?

**David:**

A little bit. What does this ride do?

**Keely:**

It just spins.

**David:**

Spins.

**Keely:**

That's what they all do.

**Screaming**

**David:**

The key is to keep your neck back, because if you do that it gets tiring. Woo!

**David:**

Yeah, the barrels are better because you can control the spin, I think.

**Keely:**

Yeah, you feel more in control.

**David:**

And we probably shouldn't have eaten today.

**Keely:**

Probably just shouldn't have not eaten at all.

**David:**

We're a little old.

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**Keely:**

Old. I'm too old for this!

**David:**

Tornado, that's not for us. I have a hunch it spins!

**Keely:**

Does this spin?

**Music**

**Keely:**

Woo-hoo, we're going up!

**David:**

We'll see how this one compares to the Freedom 2000.

**David:**

You know what, I'm starting to get a little dizzy on this one too!

**Keely:**

Look at the horizon, David, just look at the horizon!

**Keely:**

That was much better than the Freedom 2000!

**David:**

Yeah, so I would rank it slide, barrel of fun...

**Keely:**

Barrel of fun, paratrooping...

**David:**

Paratrooping.

**Keely:**

And then, last, and least...

**David and Keely:**

Freedom 2000.

**Keely:**

Freedom 1952.

**David VO:**

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We should get a souvenir to remind us about our visit to the Georgia Mountain Fair. How about a caricature?

**Dave Washburn:**

I have a tamer pen than I used to years ago. For better or worse.

**David:**

My lighting director says I get nose shadow too often.

**Keely:**

What is he really saying?

**Phil:**

Yeah, that's what I'm saying, there's another message in there!

**David:**

Wait a second!

**Dave Washburn:**

I think that's not too hidden, is it?

**Phil VO:**

Dave Washburn does good work.

**Keely:**

Well, that's it for this episode of Georgia Traveler. I want to thank Hilda and all our friends here at the Georgia Mountain Fair.

**David:**

We hope you join us for the next episode of Georgia Traveler. Until we meet again, I'm David Zelski...

**Keely:**

I'm Keely Muse...

**Phil:**

And I'm Phil Proctor, wishing you pleasant journeys!

**Music**

**Woman VO:**

Georgia traveler is made possible in part by...

**Music**

**Man VO:**

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**Music**

**Woman VO:**

And by supporters of Georgia Public Broadcasting. Thank you.

**Music**

**Man VO:**

Georgia Traveler is produced in partnership with the Georgia Department of Economic Development and the Georgia Tourism Foundation.

**Music**

**Man VO:**

This has been a production of Georgia Public Broadcasting.